

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-44 are pending in this application. Following entry of the amendment, claim 31 will have been amended, claims 1-30 and 32-44 will have been cancelled, and claim 45 will have been added.

In the March 19, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that dependent claim 31 recites allowable subject matter. Thus, applicants have rewritten dependent claim 31 in independent form, and have cancelled the remaining claims.

On May 7, 2004, the undersigned spoke with the Examiner by telephone regarding the amendment of this application to include a computer-readable medium claim that recites the same subject matter as method claim 31. The Examiner indicated that a computer-readable medium claim would be allowable if it recites the same language as claim 31 (as rewritten), and includes that language in the body of the claim (and not in the preamble). Applicants have added claim 45 in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Claim 45 recite the same language as rewritten claim, except that claim 31 recites a method and claim 45 recites a computer-readable medium to perform that method. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 45 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 31.

Drawings

The Examiner has not acknowledged acceptance of the formal drawings filed with this application. It is respectfully requested that, in the next Office Action, the Examiner indicate that the formal drawings have been accepted.

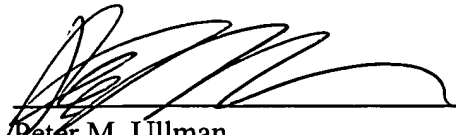
IDS Submissions

The Examiner has initialed the May 16, 2001 and January 21, 2003 IDS submissions, and pages 1-2 of the September 19, 2000 IDS submission. However, page 3 of the September 19, 2000 IDS submission was not included with the March 19, 2004 Office Action. A copy of the September 19, 2000 IDS is submitted herewith, and applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of page 3 of this IDS submission.

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PATENT

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